

Final

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32other names/site number 097-296-10001

## 2. Location

street & number 6330 Guilford Avenue☐ not for publicationcity or town Indianapolis☐ vicinitystate Indiana code IN county Marion code 097 zip code 46220

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Signature of certifying official

Date

Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

   entered in the National Register   determined eligible for the National Register   determined not eligible for the National Register   removed from the National Register   other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: fire station

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: fire station

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Tudor Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

Stucco

roof: Asphalt

other: Wood

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Guilford Avenue and East Westfield Blvd. in the Broad Ripple neighborhood of Indianapolis. It is sited diagonally toward the intersection giving fire equipment easy access to both streets and making it stand out from its neighbors. The building is set back from the intersection in a setting composed in part by lawn, low plantings, mature trees, and asphalt parking surface that establish a residential environment in the midst of the Broad Ripple commercial district. The one and one-half story, brown brick and stucco building was designed by architect John P. Parrish in the Tudor Revival style and constructed by Service Construction Company in 1922. The building, which rests on a concrete pad, is residential in massing and scale and originally approximated a Greek cross in plan before receiving an addition to its south end in about 1980. The main changes to the exterior include the modern overhead garage door that replaces the original wood folding doors on the primary elevation and the replacement of all window sash with metal casements that fit into the original openings. The general interior arrangement of spaces around the large central equipment garage space in the original section of the building remains roughly as built. However, some new rooms have been created from secondary original spaces and interior finishes have been modernized over time.

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### Narrative Description

The primary elevation of the Broad Ripple Firehouse (photo 1) faces roughly north and is balanced around a projecting garage entrance under a double-peak, half-timbered gable. The firehouse's brown brick walls rise above a limestone off-set to the eave line. The building's cornerstone (photo 3) is located just above the off-set on the north corner of the elevation. A dark brown triple window left of the garage entrance is balanced on the right by a smaller, double window. The building's substantial, jerkinhead roof with deep overhanging eaves consumes more than half the total height of the elevation and contributes to the firehouse's cottage-like appearance. The eaves reveal chamfered rafter tails that enhance the sense of crafted construction. Today the roof is sheathed in composite shingles that replace what appears in an historic photo as wood shingles. A large metal siren, not original, is centrally located on the main roof peak. A pair of gabled dormers with overhangs flanks the main gable. Each dormer originally held a multi-light sash but now contains a single pane window. A louvered vent located between the peaks of the main gable also has been replaced by a single pane window. The shapes of the double-peak gable and the dormer roofs are emphasized by plain bargeboards. The most notable change to this elevation beside the garage door replacement has been made by the replacement of the original multi-pane sash with metal, single pane lights.

The appearance of the west elevation (photos 2, 4) has been complicated by the construction of a small, frame, shed roof addition on a concrete slab. This addition, of vertical wood siding, has an entrance and two windows facing Guilford Avenue and another entrance and windows facing northwest. Set back from the primary elevation and shaded by a small grove of pine trees, the addition serves as a small porch that gives access to an outside picnic area. A one story brick wall immediately south of the addition screens the base of a tall cell tower. The tower and wall were constructed in 1994 as indicated by inscription on a limestone plaque (photo 5). The west wall of the 80s addition to the firehouse completes this elevation. The addition wall is of brown brick with a solitary entrance beneath a half-timbered jerkinhead gable. A triple light window is centrally located in the gable.

The firehouse's east elevation (photo 7) is a composite of two arms of the original cruciform building and the 1980s addition. The one and one-half story end wall of the original building is sheathed completely in brown brick to the peak of the jerkinhead gable and contains two triple metal casement windows flanking an entrance on the first floor and a triple casement in the gable. The one story arm of the original building (photo 8) is pierced by a triple casement window. A double-peak, two light, stucco dormer projects from the south side of the main roof as does a simple, brick chimney. The gabled end of the 80s addition is set back from the original wall plane. Its first floor is brown brick that is slightly different from the original brick in color. The gable is half-timbered with stucco infill and rises to the jerkinhead roof. A double casement window is centrally located in the gable.

As stated, the interior is organized around the central garage bay (photo 10). Narrow rooms which have been modernized over time (photo 12) flank this area. However, evidence of original interior treatment can be seen in the room south of the garage bay where a staircase leading to the basement remains. The original interior hose tower, once accessed from the garage, has been sealed with drywall. Visible evidence on the garage pavement marks the location of the now removed fireman's pole (photo 11). The basement room arrangement of two large rooms and the lower level of the hose tower remains largely as originally constructed (photo 14) although the firehouse's furnace now occupies the hose tower (photo 15). Another section of original stair leads from the basement to the second floor. This floor originally was one large open sleeping area but has been subdivided (photo 17) in recent years and showers installed. A sleeping area with several bunks is now located at the south end of the second floor.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1922-1961

**Significant Dates****Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

Parrish, John P.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The building was constructed in 1922 to serve the Broad Ripple community and has continued in that capacity to the present. The 1961 end date marks 50 years from the present.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 is locally eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as an important example of civic building design in the Tudor Revival style, a style more commonly used for residential properties. The building's residential scale and cottage-like shape, combined with its Tudor style references to late medieval housing related it to the bungalows and revival cottages that were being constructed in Broad Ripple in the 1920s. The Broad Ripple Firehouse is one of only four fire stations identified in the 1998 Indiana Historic Sites and Structures survey of Washington Township. While three of the four stations are residential in style and scale, the Broad Ripple Firehouse is the only one that employed Tudor Revival stylistic detail to relate the building to its surrounding neighborhood. The Bungalow style fire station at 512 38<sup>th</sup> Street has a residential scale while the French Colonial influenced Fire Station #16 at 5555 N. Illinois St. is more institutional in size. Of the four stations, the Broad Ripple Firehouse design established the best rapport with the neighborhood it served through its style and the manner in which it was sited.

The firehouse is also notable as the design of local architect, John P. Parrish. Parrish the year before had designed the Calvin Prather Masonic Lodge at 42<sup>nd</sup> and College Avenue and would go on to work on other public and private commissions until 1942 when he joined the U.S. Army.

Broad Ripple Firehouse was constructed in 1922 to serve the Town of Broad Ripple, then in the midst of a controversial annexation by the City of Indianapolis. It served the community of Broad Ripple both before and after annexation was resolved and continues to serve the community to this day as the oldest Indianapolis firehouse in continuous service. It is locally eligible under Criterion A for the important role it has played in Community Development and Planning.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Broad Ripple Firehouse is a good example of civic architecture designed in the Tudor Revival style. Architect John P. Parrish used the half-timbering motif common to the style and careful manipulation of scale and proportion to evoke a sense of the modest Elizabethan cottages of rural England. The revival of interest in Tudor era design began in England in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century had spread to America. By the 1920s its popularity had expanded from an initial appearance in large grand estate houses to many mid-size and small homes. Middle class residences in the Butler-Fairview neighborhood south of Broad Ripple exhibited Tudor Revival taste beginning in the 1920s. The style also was used on larger, multi-unit residential properties such as the Sheffield Inn (1927) at 956-58 N. Pennsylvania St. and the Manchester Apartments (1929) at 960-62 N. Pennsylvania St. in Indianapolis but much less frequently for civic properties. Parrish's use of only vertical half timbering in the main gable succinctly conveyed the Tudor association while its double-peak form, also seen at the Sheffield Inn, accommodated the broad garage opening and created a picturesque profile on the main façade. In addition, the clipped profile of the jerkinhead side gables contributed to the firehouse's cottage-like appearance. Consequently, the firehouse was functional, fashionable, and its residential character related it to the community.

John P. Parrish was an engineer and architect whose office was in the Castle Hall Building in Indianapolis in 1921<sup>1</sup> Parrish probably chose his office location in Castle Hall, a building constructed by a consortium of six Masonic lodges, because of his own connection to masonry.<sup>2</sup> He was a lodge member and an architect for at least two Indianapolis lodges, the Calvin Prather Masonic Lodge at 42<sup>nd</sup> and College Avenue (1921) where he was also a member, and the Millersville Masonic Lodge in Indianapolis (1925). Parrish also designed the John Strange Elementary School in 1924 and was architect for a number of armories including the Stout Field armory in Indianapolis (1920s) plus the National Guard Armories in Michigan City and Darlington, Indiana.<sup>3</sup> He served as associate architect for the Naval Armory in Indianapolis.<sup>4</sup> In 1931 Parrish was the architect for Culver Military Academy and for the Wrought Iron Range Company of St. Louis.<sup>5</sup> In 1942 he entered the

<sup>1</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, November 13, 1921, Sec. C, 7.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Piatt Dunn, *Greater Indianapolis* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1910), 381.

<sup>3</sup> "John Parrish Dies; Architect, Engineer", *Indianapolis Star*, August 13, 1968, 12; "Calvin W. Prather Memorial Lodge", [http://www.calvinprather.com/lodge\\_history.htm](http://www.calvinprather.com/lodge_history.htm) (accessed May 8, 2010); David J. Cord, "The History of Millersville Lodge" 2004 <http://www.millersvillelodge.org/HistoryofMillersville-v2005.pdf> (accessed May 8, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> *Concrete*, volume 45, (1937), 498

<sup>5</sup> *American Architect and Architecture*, volume 139, (1931), 114

army and remained until 1953. While with the Army Corps of Engineers, Parrish served in India, Newfoundland, Brazil and Europe before retiring as a major. Following his retirement from military service, he worked as a civilian with the Army Corps of Engineers until 1960.<sup>6</sup> In 1968 when he died at age 76, Parrish was living at 5945 Primrose Ave. not far from the Broad Ripple Firehouse.<sup>7</sup> Not one of Indianapolis's more renowned architects, Parrish enjoyed a successful and lengthy career.

#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

##### History of Broad Ripple

In 1822 Jacob McKay and John Calip acquired 147 acres in Washington Township near the area of northern Marion County that would eventually become Broad Ripple.<sup>8</sup> Their purchases came upon the heels of the platting of Indianapolis in 1821. McKay and Calip's land lay about seven miles north of the new capitol city. Although other stakeholders may have settled around the Calip and McKay properties, it was the beginning of surveying for the location of the Central Canal, part of the Mammoth Improvements Bill of 1836, which spurred town building in the area.<sup>9</sup> Speculating on the benefits of the canal and the need of canal workers for housing and services, Jacob Coil purchased land from McKay and Calip and platted a town with 48 lots near a wide shallow spot in White River where travelers crossed. The current of the river and the shallowness at this crossing caused a ripple in the water and Coil named his town Broad Ripple in recognition of the name settlers had already given to the river crossing.<sup>10</sup> About a month after Coil platted Broad Ripple, James and Adam Nelson laid out the town of Wellington on the south bank of the proposed canal route with 32 lots.<sup>11</sup>

As work began on the canal, the flanking towns grew. The canal was completed through the Broad Ripple-Wellington area in 1839. The Washington Township towns now had easy access to Indianapolis to the south. Travelers who chose not to travel by canal boat could make the trip to the south or the north over the Westfield Toll Road (now Westfield Boulevard). Dry goods stores opened in both Broad Ripple and Wellington and a post office opened in Broad Ripple in 1850, later moving to Wellington, then back to Broad Ripple and then for several years back and forth between the two communities. Eventually, despite the change in locations, the post office retained the name of Broad Ripple until 1884.<sup>12</sup> By 1843, there were enough children in the Broad Ripple area to require the opening of a new school. Washington Township Grade School 5 opened that year. A new saw mill and grist mill also opened along the river in 1848 near the dam that had been constructed there. The mill provided lumber for canal and house building and making Broad Ripple an important destination for area farmers who needed to have their corn and wheat ground into flour.<sup>13</sup>

Following its ultimate failure to construct a successful canal system, the state sold the eight mile stretch of the Central Canal from Broad Ripple to downtown Indianapolis to a private firm in 1859. This company sold the canal to the Indianapolis Water Company a decade later.<sup>14</sup> By then, better roads had made Broad Ripple-Wellington accessible. Then, in 1883, the Delphi and Chicago Railroad laid tracks through Broad Ripple. When the line was completed to Union Station in downtown Indianapolis it became the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville Railroad (and later the Monon).<sup>15</sup>

In 1884, Broad Ripple and Wellington united as one town with about 150 residents, eliminating the confusion caused by the post office.<sup>16</sup> Residents of the unified town established Broad Ripple High School in the two-story brick and limestone building that would house both grade and high schools.<sup>17</sup> The new town also built a town hall at the corner of Westfield Boulevard and Belfontaine, now Guilford Avenue (now the location of the Broad Ripple Firehouse). The building was also used as a jail, a polling place, and as the headquarters of the volunteer fire department.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>6</sup> "John Parrish Dies; Architect, Engineer", *Indianapolis Star*, August 13, 1968, 12.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Esther Dawson, *Broad Ripple: A History of the Northern Indianapolis Community Built Around the Construction of the Central Canal*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_esther.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_esther.htm) (Accessed April 9, 2010).

<sup>9</sup> Logan Esary, *Internal Improvements in Early Indiana*, Indianapolis Historical Society Publications, v.5, no.2, 1912, 101

<sup>10</sup> Dawson, *Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_esther.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_esther.htm) (Accessed April 9, 2010).

<sup>11</sup> David A. Bodenhamer and Robert H. Barrows, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, (Indianapolis, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992), 352.

<sup>12</sup> Junior Historical Society and Riparian Newspaper, *Broad Ripple High School, A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_esther.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_esther.htm) (accessed April 9, 2010).

<sup>13</sup> Dawson, *Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_esther.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_esther.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010).

<sup>14</sup> Esarey, *Internal Improvements*, 123.

<sup>15</sup> Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch08.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch08.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010).

<sup>16</sup> Bodenhamer and Barrows, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 352.

<sup>17</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, November 7, 1971, Sec. C, 7

<sup>18</sup> Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch07.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch07.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010).

By 1890, Broad Ripple was becoming a summer resort town where Indianapolis residents escaped the heat of the larger city.<sup>19</sup> By 1896 Broad Ripple high school had 50 students, but the majority of these came from elsewhere in the township.<sup>20</sup> Unfortunately, a fire destroyed the building in that year.<sup>21</sup> The volunteer fire department was unable to save the building. Students met in churches and lodges until the following year when the town reconstructed the building adding an assembly room and four additional classrooms.<sup>22</sup>

In 1900 Broad Ripple counted 486 residents.<sup>23</sup> Four years later, the Broad Ripple Transit Company bought land for tracks along White River and Broad Ripple Avenue connecting the land the community had used for picnicking to the street railway. Then, in 1905, one of the owners of the Broad Ripple Transit Company, Dr. Robert C. Light, along with investors, Raymond P. Van Camp, Milton S. Huey, and John W. Bowles, all of Indianapolis, and Leon O. Bailey of New York incorporated the White City Amusement Company.<sup>24</sup> The company planned to erect a mechanized amusement park on the former picnic grounds alongside the newly laid streetcar line.

White City Amusement Park (soon to be another challenge for the local fire department) was open for business in May 1906. The park had a boardwalk among the tall trees, a high chute-the chutes ride, a dance hall, fake opium den, and a baby incubator exhibit nursing real-life babies, to name but a few of the fantastical amusements found there.<sup>25</sup>

Just a few months before the opening of the White City Amusement Park in 1906, Broad Ripple suffered a major fire when, on February 3, sparks from a Monon freight train set Jackson's store, Huffman's restaurant, and Floranders' Blacksmith Shop ablaze. The Broad Ripple fire department, with help from the pumper truck from Fire Station #5 at 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Indianapolis, used water from the canal to extinguish the blaze.<sup>26</sup>

After two years of operation, White City Amusement Park added an Olympic-size concrete swimming pool with a sand covered deck in 1908. The pool was just about ready to open when a spark in the fake opium den of the Mystic Cave attraction set a curtain on fire and started a conflagration that eventually burned down the park. Although Broad Ripple's fire department arrived on the scene quickly, the park's stored water had been used to fill the new pool and there was no water flowing out of the spigots around the property. Broad Ripple's firemen had to pump water from the river to fight the fire and managed to burn up a hose in the process.<sup>27</sup> Eventually an Indianapolis fire truck arrived from downtown, but it was too late to save all the buildings and rides. Fortunately, the pool was relatively untouched by the flames. When it opened just a week later than planned it became a landmark for Broad Ripple and it remained a recreational spot, and the site of two Olympic trials over many following decades.<sup>28</sup>

These disastrous fires just two years apart may have prompted Broad Ripple's town government to seek annexation to Indianapolis. As early as March 1906, one month after the fire that destroyed several businesses, Broad Ripple requested annexation to the larger city. That attempt failed and when in 1909 the Indianapolis City Council attempted to annex Broad Ripple the effort was vetoed by Indianapolis Mayor Charles Bookwalter.<sup>29</sup> Broad Ripple remained an independent town.

In 1913, a flood that set records in southern Indiana also hit central Indiana towns. In Broad Ripple, the 1913 flood did more damage than any previous flood in its history. So much soil washed out beneath the Monon Railroad tracks at Westfield Boulevard and Winthrop that one local historian claimed a six foot tall man could stand under the tracks. A number of Broad Ripple's houses were washed from their foundations by the flooding White River and the jail lost its roof in the flood.<sup>30</sup> The following year as clean up of the flood damage continued, Broad Ripple constructed a new high school

<sup>19</sup> Bodenhamer and Barrows, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 353.

<sup>20</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, November 7, 1971; sec. C, 7; Department of public Instruction, *Report to the General Assembly 1897-1898*, (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1898), 260.

<sup>21</sup> Bodenhamer and Barrows, *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 353.

<sup>22</sup> Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch04.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch04.htm)

<sup>23</sup> Population of the United States, Twelfth Census 1900 (Washington, D.C.: United States Census Printing Office, 1901), 140.

<sup>24</sup> "White City Amusement Company, Articles of Incorporation." October 4, 1905.

<sup>25</sup> Connie J. Zeigler, "Indianapolis Amusement Parks, 1903-1911: Landscapes on the Edge," <http://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/1595/thesismerged.pdf?sequence=1> (accessed May 1, 2010).

<sup>26</sup> Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch08.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch08.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010).

<sup>27</sup> "Typical Fires and their Lessons," *Insurance Engineering*, vol. XVI, no. 1, July 1908, 142.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Indianapolis News*, March 22, 1906, 16; *Indianapolis News* October 13, 1909, 1; *Indianapolis Star*, October 5, 1909.

<sup>30</sup> Dawson, *Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_esther.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_esther.htm) (accessed April 9, 2010; Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*,



building.<sup>31</sup> No doubt the monetary investment to clean up after the flood was one of the reasons that Broad Ripple again considered annexation to Indianapolis in 1914. In fact, Indianapolis did annex a portion of the town that year but a court ruling found that addition to be illegal and overturned it in 1915.<sup>32</sup>

Broad Ripple remained an independent community, but that independence was relied on Indianapolis residents who made their summer homes in the small community along White River and shopped in the stores of the community's commercial district along Westfield Boulevard, Bellefontaine(now Guilford), and Shelby(now Broad Ripple) Avenue.<sup>33</sup> By 1920, Broad Ripple's population had reached 1,552.<sup>34</sup> But in the summer, local newspapers reported that the population was "doubled or trebled by residents of downtown Indianapolis who wish to get out where the cool breezes blow. . ."<sup>35</sup> By 1922, it was hard to see where Indianapolis ended and Broad Ripple began. Bungalows, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and other "modern" homes were growing up along the edges of both towns until there was only an imaginary dividing line at 54<sup>th</sup> Street signaling the end of one municipality and the beginning of the other.

Again, in June 1922, the Indianapolis City Council voted to annex the smaller community.<sup>36</sup> Although many Broad Ripple residents were in favor of the annexation, seeing the benefits of a larger city's ability to provide cheaper water, policing, flood protection, and streetcar service, some of the small town citizens opposed this annexation.<sup>37</sup> Once again, a lawsuit called annexation into question.

As the citizens of Broad Ripple waited to learn their municipal fate, they took time to celebrate a community accomplishment. On August 25, 1922, one thousand residents turned out for the dedication of the new Broad Ripple Firehouse. One resident stated that the firehouse represented "the beginning of civic pride in the municipality." But the event also acknowledged the pending connection between Broad Ripple and Indianapolis. Robert Glaube of the Broad Ripple Chamber of Commerce presided over the ceremony and O.B. Iles of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce spoke at the event. Iles noted that "Broad Ripple is in the forefront of the suburbs of Indianapolis in bettering her civic life. We, of Indianapolis, are pleased to see this. What is good for Broad Ripple helps Indianapolis."<sup>38</sup>

Despite Iles flowery oratory there were more than a few Broad Ripple residents who didn't believe that Broad Ripple and Indianapolis should be so intimately connected. In fact, 693 residents of Broad Ripple, including the master of ceremonies at the firehouse's opening, Robert Glaube, and the firehouse's architect, John Parrish, signed a remonstrance against the annexation.<sup>39</sup> Nearly half of Broad Ripple's population had signed the remonstrance against the annexation. Although they directed their remonstrance to the Marion County Circuit Court where the pending lawsuit would be heard, in October 1922, the litigants dropped the suit.<sup>40</sup> Broad Ripple was now part of Indianapolis.

At the time of annexation Broad Ripple was a thriving community. Annexation did not change that, but it did bring change. The ninety-four proud students of Broad Ripple High School were now part of the Indianapolis Public School system but their school retained its historic name. As a result of annexation the Broad Ripple Fire Department became part of the Indianapolis Fire Department. It had a crew of eight firemen and a pumper truck, and annexation added a hook-and-ladder unit to the station.<sup>41</sup> Indianapolis water, policing, new flood levees and libraries were also now services Broad Ripple could count on.

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[http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch09.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch09.htm) (accessed May 10, 2010).

<sup>31</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, November 13, 1921, sec. C, 7

<sup>32</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, October 20, 1914, 3; *Indianapolis News*, April 15, 1915, 1

<sup>33</sup> "Broad Ripple as a Summer Resort", *Indianapolis Star*, September 26, 1915, Hoosier sec. 1.

<sup>34</sup> United States Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Census of Population*, 342.

<sup>35</sup> *Indianapolis News*, February 25, 1922, 17.

<sup>36</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, June 20, 1922.

<sup>37</sup> Jon C. Teaford, *City and Suburb: The Political Fragmentation of Metropolitan America, 1850-1970*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979), 54;

"Broad Ripple Folk against Annexation," *Indianapolis Star*, July 18, 1922, 1.

<sup>38</sup> "Broad Ripple's Fire House is Dedicated," *Indianapolis Star*, August 25, 1922, 19.

<sup>39</sup> "Broad Ripple annexation Document—by Name," *Broad Ripple History.com* [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_name.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_name.htm) (accessed April 1, 2010).

<sup>40</sup> "Suit dismissed: Broad Ripple now in Indianapolis," *Indianapolis News*, October 4, 1922, 1.

<sup>41</sup> Broad Ripple High School, *A History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch08.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch08.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010).

A new firehouse with the most up-to-date equipment must have been a selling point to the folks who began to build homes in the community. By 1930, the population of the area that had formerly been the town of Broad Ripple reached 8,896. It continued to rise each decade in the historic period (ending in 1961)<sup>42</sup>

Between 1930 and 1960, Broad Ripple's total number of housing units needing fire protection increased from 2,645 to 7,718. The great majority of these units were single-family homes. In the decade between 1940 and 1950, returning servicemen were marrying and buying homes, owner-occupied housing represented 78.86 percent of new construction in the census tracts that approximately corresponded to the historic Boundary of Broad Ripple. Only the decade from 1950 to 1960 surpassed that percentage as the parents of the baby boomers bought homes in which to raise their record breaking number of children. Between 1950 and 1960, single-family units in Broad Ripple represented 94.79 percent of total residential construction and nearly 80 percent of these units were owner occupied.<sup>43</sup> The Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 carried the responsibility of protecting all of this new construction and these new families.

In the 1940s both a new post office and a new high school were constructed in the Indianapolis suburb of Broad Ripple. The forty-six employees of the Broad Ripple post office served 51,000 persons.<sup>44</sup> A branch of the Indianapolis Public Library opened in Broad Ripple in 1930.<sup>45</sup> By 1949 the Broad Ripple branch surpassed all other branches in numbers of books checked out monthly.<sup>46</sup>

The traditional commercial area of Broad Ripple suffered a major blow in the late 1950s when Glendale Shopping Center, constructed on busy Keystone Avenue, drew regional shoppers to the area while it lured away local ones from Broad Ripple's merchants.<sup>47</sup> While the community became more densely occupied, its commercial core shifted away from the traditional "downtown" of Broad Ripple causing consternation to business owners and causing them to rethink their offerings and services as they entered the 1960s.

Constructed just prior to annexation, the Broad Ripple Firehouse became the Indianapolis Fire Department's Station 32. It was the newest station in the IFD until Station 33 was added in 1964.<sup>48</sup> Today, it is the oldest station still in use in the department.

While firefighting and lifesaving have been the primary purpose of the firehouse, it has served a much greater purpose in the suburban community of Broad Ripple. It was and remains a point of pride for Broad Ripple. ; It is the last operational civic enterprise from pre-annexation years and it remains a point of contact between the firemen and women on duty and the community. Broad Ripple residents continue to feel pride in their firehouse. A history of Broad Ripple published in 1968 by Broad Ripple High School claimed that "in 1923, modern fire protection became available, and from that time on fires ceased to take as great a toll."<sup>49</sup> When the Indianapolis Fire Department considered closing the Broad Ripple Firehouse, IFD Station 32 a few years ago, a petition circulated on the internet drew almost 500 signees, many of whom noted the importance of the firehouse in their memories of childhood school outings and its contribution to the cultural and civic nature of Broad Ripple.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> "Broad Ripple Historic Statistics," <http://www.polis.iupui.edu/RUC/Neighborhoods/BroadRipple/BRStatistic.fnl.htm> (accessed May 10, 2010).

<sup>43</sup> "Broad Ripple Historic Statistics," <http://www.polis.iupui.edu/RUC/Neighborhoods/BroadRipple/BRStatistic.fnl.htm> (accessed May 10, 2010).

<sup>44</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, January 5, 1950, 1.

<sup>45</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, October 23, 1930, 8.

<sup>46</sup> *Indianapolis Times*, January 5, 1950, 1.

<sup>47</sup> Bodenhamer and Barrows, ed., *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, 1258.

<sup>48</sup> Indianapolis Fire Department, "Looking Back: A Time to Build" [http://www.indygov.org/eGov/Cityh/DPS/IFD/History/Station\\_History/Pages/looking\\_back.aspx](http://www.indygov.org/eGov/Cityh/DPS/IFD/History/Station_History/Pages/looking_back.aspx) (accessed April 5, 2010).

<sup>49</sup> *Broad Ripple High School, History of Broad Ripple*, [http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br\\_ch10.htm](http://www.broadripplehistory.com/br_ch10.htm) (accessed April 10, 2010)

<sup>50</sup> "Broad Ripple Firehouse Important ;Civic Presence," <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-Broad-Ripple-Firehouse> (accessed May 12, 2010).

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Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept.  
Station 32

Marion County, Indiana

Name of Property

County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_097-296-10001\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**    Less than 1 acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1    16        573282        4413767  
      Zone       Easting       Northing

3        Zone       Easting       Northing

2        Zone       Easting       Northing

4        Zone       Easting       Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries for the Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 encompass an area of less than one acre. The property is contained within an area bounded by Guilford Avenue on the north, the Central Canal on the west, the edge of the firehouse parking lot on the south and Westfield Boulevard on the east. The boundaries begin on the northeast corner of the property at a spot on the southern edge of the sidewalk surrounding the property. The line then progresses in a more or less straight line toward the west following the southern edge of the sidewalk until it meets the point where the sidewalk curves to the southwest. At this point the boundary continues to follow the sidewalk around the western side of the property line past the west elevation of the firehouse and continuing along the eastern edges of the sidewalk until it travels behind the parking lot and meets the point where the sidewalk curves toward the southeast. It then continues to follow the sidewalk around the parking lot until it reaches a point where a concrete curb marks the southern edge of the firehouse parking lot. At this point the line turns more or less due east and follows the northern edge of the concrete curb until it reaches the point where the curb meets the sidewalk again at the southeastern corner of the property. At this point the line turns more or less due north and travels along the western edge of the sidewalk, past the firehouse building, until it once again meets the beginning point.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all the resources associated with the Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 both historically and currently. The property boundary is marked distinctly by sidewalks, the edge of the asphalt parking lot, and a concrete curb and includes all the grassy areas, trees, and landscaping of the site as well as the building.

Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept.  
Station 32  
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Connie Zeigler, President  
organization C. Resources, Inc. for Broad Ripple Village Assn. date May 20, 2010  
street & number 963 Hosbrook St. telephone 317-955-0377  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46203  
e-mail Conniezeigler@sbcglobal.net

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32

**City or Vicinity:** Indianapolis

**County:** Marion **State:** Indiana

**Photographer:** Connie Zeigler

**Date Photographed:** March 10, 2010

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Front elevation, camera facing southwest

1 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Replacement window on west elevation, camera facing southeast

2 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Cornerstone, camera facing southwest

3 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** west elevation, camera facing southeast  
4 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** plaque on screen wall, camera facing southeast  
5 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** south elevation, camera facing northeast  
6 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** east elevation, camera facing northwest  
7 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** east elevation detail, camera facing north  
8 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** east elevation, camera facing northwest  
9 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** garage bay, camera facing southwest  
10 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** garage bay floor detail  
11 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** interior room flanking garage, camera facing northeast  
12 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** stairway detail, camera facing north  
13 of \_\_17\_\_.

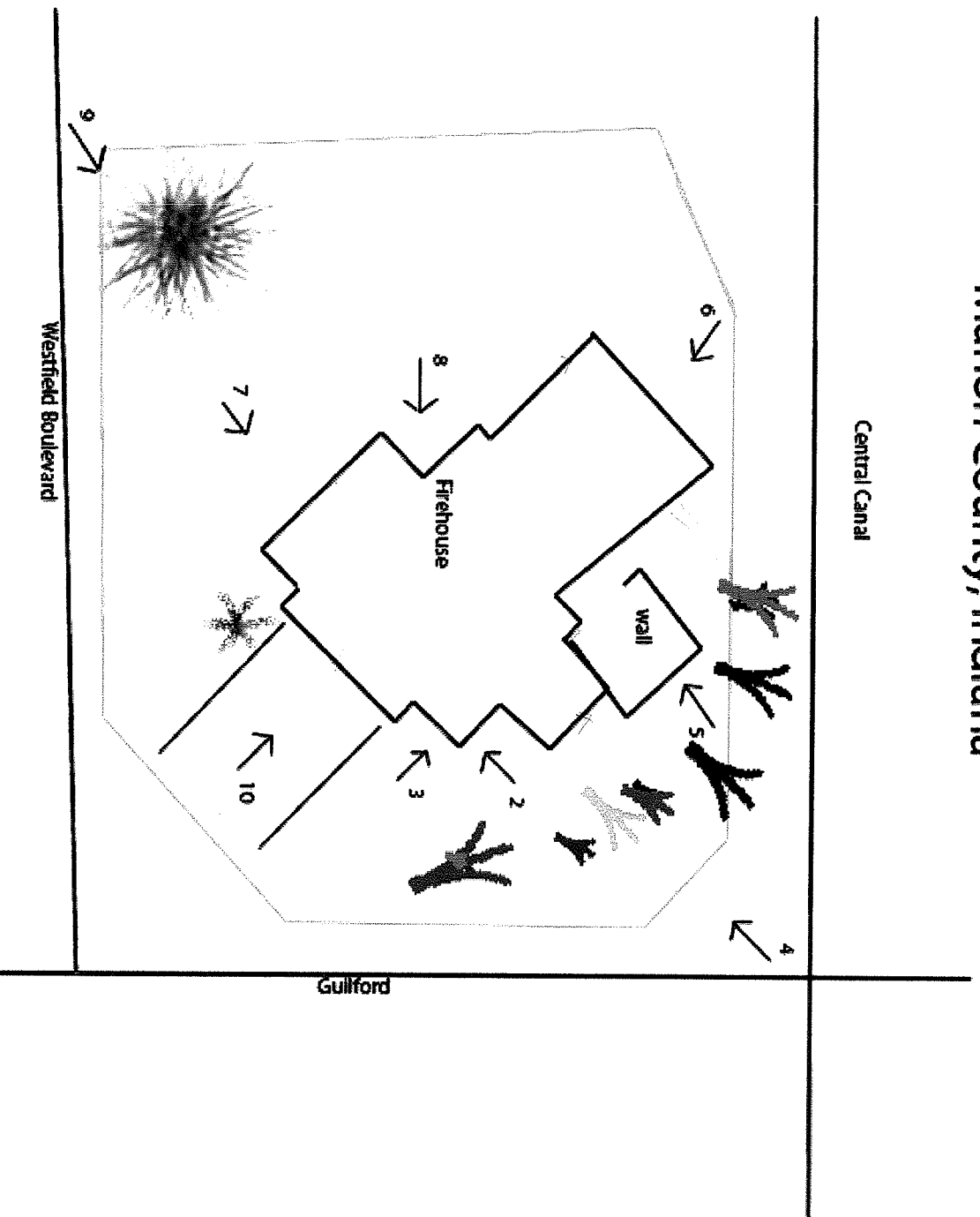
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** basement room, camera facing east  
14 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** basement of former hose drying tower, camera facing north  
15 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** original stair to second floor, camera facing west  
16 of \_\_17\_\_.

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** second floor, camera facing east  
17 of \_\_17\_\_.

# Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Department Station 32 Marion County, Indiana





Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept.  
Station 32  
Name of Property

Marion County, Indiana  
County and State

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**Property Owner:**

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

---

name Indianapolis Fire Department  
street & number 555 N. New Jersey telephone 317-327-6041  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 1



Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 4





Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo



6

Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 7





Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 8



Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 10



Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 12



Broad Ripple Firehouse, Indianapolis Fire Dept. Station 32, photo 16